

Great World

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Our congratulatory column this month is directed to a member of our community who has earned some of the most exalted credentials possible.

The Home Federal Savings and Loan honoree as Leisure Worlder for May is John W. Luhring, renowned banker, university president and contributor to programs of presidents and governors.

And on a more delightfully human enjoyment level, a gourmet cook and much honored humanitarian.

In Luhring's story is an item dealing with a member-cooked dinner in 1959 when he ran afoul of government regulations over some imported fresh vegetables he had ordered from France.

This amusing incident probably tells more about the human side of John Luhring than could any other event.

It happened when Luhring's shipment of fresh artichokes failed to gain customs approval at Los Angeles airport. Luhring got permission to transport the artichokes to a restaurant at the airport where he spent most of the night cooking the vegetables so they would be admissible.

While the incident showed a warm human side of our honoree, it also showed that he is a stickler for perfection.

The Los Angeles native worked at Union bank while attending night classes at South-eastern University Law

School where he received his degree and then began a career that was to last 43 years at the bank. At that point, he returned to the university as its president from 1975 to 1977.

He has served numerous civic organizations through appointment by the Los Angeles mayor. He was director of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and on the board of the Water and Power Commission which he also served as president.

President Nixon appointed him to the Oceans and Atmosphere national advisory board, and Gov. Reagan named him board chairman of the California Job Development Corp.

He has a 50-year pin for service to United Way, and in 1970 he was decorated as a knight of the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, the Malta-based humanitarian organization to aid disaster victims.

He came by his gourmet cooking expertise as a member of the Chevaliers du Tastevin, Commanderie de Bordeaux and Wine and Food Society of Southern California.

All in all, John Luhring is obviously a man who has served long and well in many capacities and has shown the ability to enjoy the great life.

We are delighted once again to offer our thanks and congratulations to our outstanding neighbor.